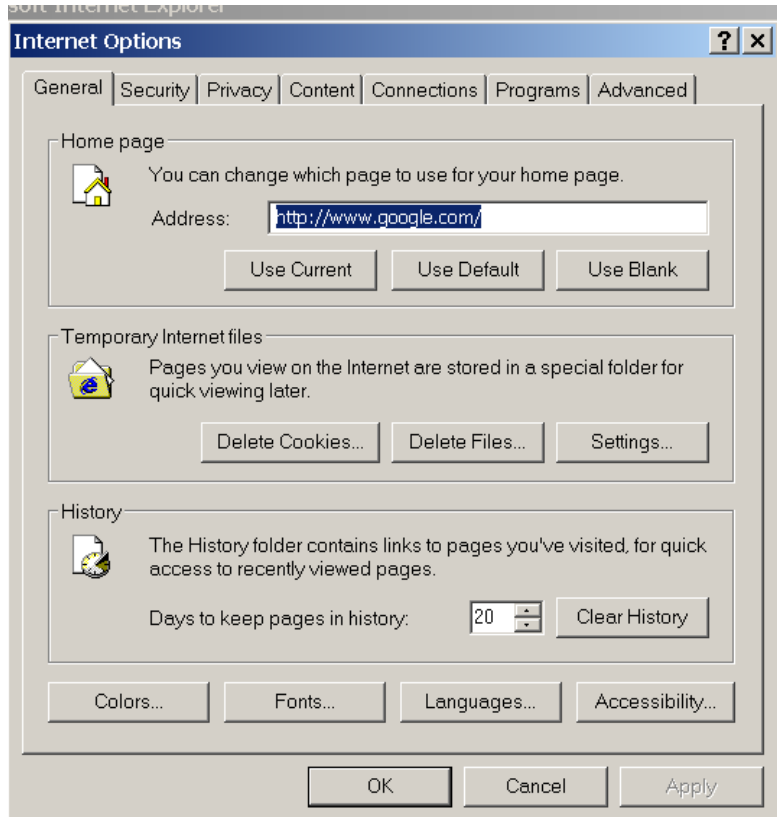


## Chapter 19 Internet Options

Internet Options is handled as a separate chapter because it is a large as well as a very important function as to the way you set up your browser to your personal preferences. Also many changes and accesses to certain functions are administered here. When the Browser updates or changes are made it is

**Home Page or your Start Page** - Internet Options from your Tools Menu is where you can make that change in your starting page when you load any web browser. You can either type in the URL or if the start page is currently displayed on your browser it will display the URL here in your Internet Options address. Click on Use Current and OK and it will become your new start page. The default is either Microsoft or the computer manufacturer's home page. You will probably do this many times. I always start with my search engine of choice, "Google."

**History** is also an icon on your Tools Bar, but this is where you control its options. 20 days is the default which will show for three weeks. You may want to clear the History record so you can start fresh from this date or you may want to maintain a longer history record.



**Temporary Internet Files** - When you access a web site in order to display it on your computer's browser, your computer must first download from the Internet the web site file and any associated files and store it in a folder on your computer called "Temporary Internet Files." Associated files are additional files that are part of the Web Page and are embedded into its structure. Graphics, sound and interactive programs are examples of web page embedded files. This is often the reason some pages take so long to load and display. You have probably noticed them loading one at a time. The speed of your modem connection and the size of the files convert into the time your browser takes to display the web page.

Your Temporary Internet File folder is a very large folder holding a very large amount of files. Files stored here are stored chronologically. As you load new files the oldest files are deleted with the exception of a few files such as "cookies" that stay until deleted. When you are accessing a web site and the file is already loaded in your computer a wait for the download is not necessary and it appears immediately in your browser. That is why when you use the back arrow the page shows immediately.

If and when you have become computer savvy enough you can feel comfortable accessing these files for saving, editing or whatever, the "settings" button is where you access these files. If you decide to do this you will be getting a warning that opening these files is "dangerous." This is why I have stated. "when you become computer savvy enough." At sometime in your computer life you will be prompted to delete "Cookies" or Internet Files." From here is where you do that task. Do not just do it for curiosity sake.

**Security** - This section is for more savvy users and not for the Newbee.

Internet Explorer divides your Internet world into zones, so that you can assign a Web site to a zone with a suitable security level.

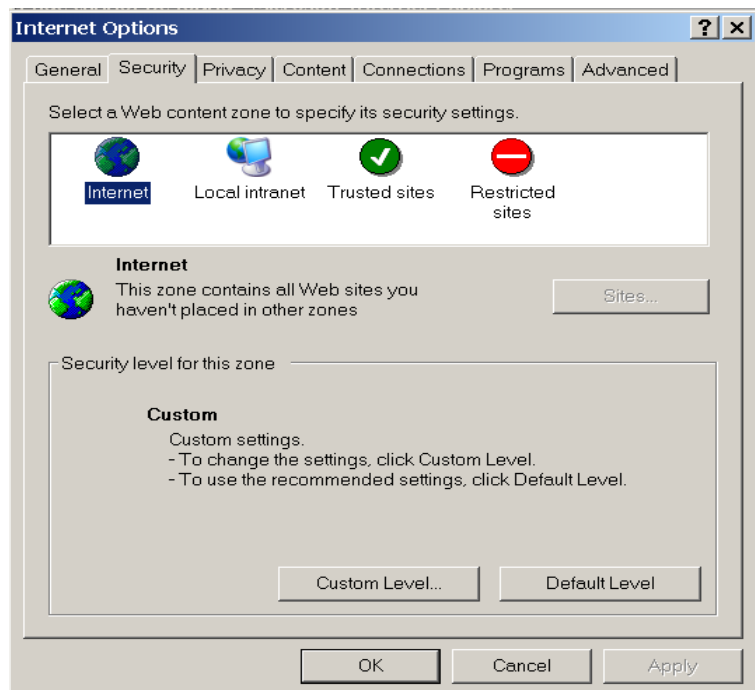
You can tell which zone the current Web page is in by looking at the right side of the Internet Explorer status bar. Whenever you attempt to open or download content from the Web, Internet Explorer checks the security settings for that Web site's zone.

There are four zones:

- **Internet** zone: By default, this zone contains anything that is not on your computer or an intranet, or assigned to any other zone. The default security level for the Internet zone is Medium. You can change your privacy settings for the Internet zone on the Privacy tab in Internet Options. For more information, click **Related Topics**.
- **Local intranet** zone: This zone typically contains any addresses that don't require a proxy server, as defined by the system administrator. These include sites specified on the **Connections** tab, network paths (such as \\computername\foldername), and local intranet sites (typically addresses that

don't contain periods, such as http://internal). You can add sites to this zone. The default security level for the Local intranet zone is Medium, therefore, Internet Explorer will allow all cookies from Web sites in this zone to be saved on your computer and read by the Web site that created them.

- **Trusted sites** zone: This zone contains sites you trust—sites that you believe you can download or run files from without worrying about damage to your computer or data. You can assign sites to this zone. The default security level for the Trusted sites zone is Low, therefore, Internet Explorer will allow



all cookies from Web sites in this zone to be saved on your computer and read by the Web site that created them.

- **Restricted sites** zone: This zone contains sites you don't trust—sites that you're not sure whether you can download or run files from without damage to your computer or data. You can assign sites to this zone. The default security level for the Restricted sites zone is High, therefore, Internet Explorer will block all cookies from Web sites in this zone.

In addition, any files already on your local computer are assumed to be very safe, so minimal security settings are assigned to them. You cannot assign a folder or drive on your computer to a security zone.

You can change the security level for a zone; for example, you might want to change the security setting for your Local intranet zone to Low. Or, you can customize the settings within a zone. You can also customize settings for a zone by importing a privacy settings file from a certification authority.

## Privacy

Internet Explorer provides a number of features that help to protect your privacy and make your computer and your personally identifiable information more secure.

Privacy features allow you to protect your personally identifiable information by helping you to understand how Web sites you view may be using this information and by allowing you to specify privacy settings that determine whether or not you want to allow Web sites to save cookies on your computer.

Privacy features in Internet Explorer include:

- Privacy settings that specify how your computer deals with cookies. Cookies are files created by a Web site that store information on your computer, such as your preferences when visiting that site. Cookies may also store personally identifiable information, such as your name or e-mail address.
- Privacy alerts that let you know when you try to gain access to a site that doesn't meet the criteria in your privacy settings.
- The ability to view a Web site's P3P privacy policy.

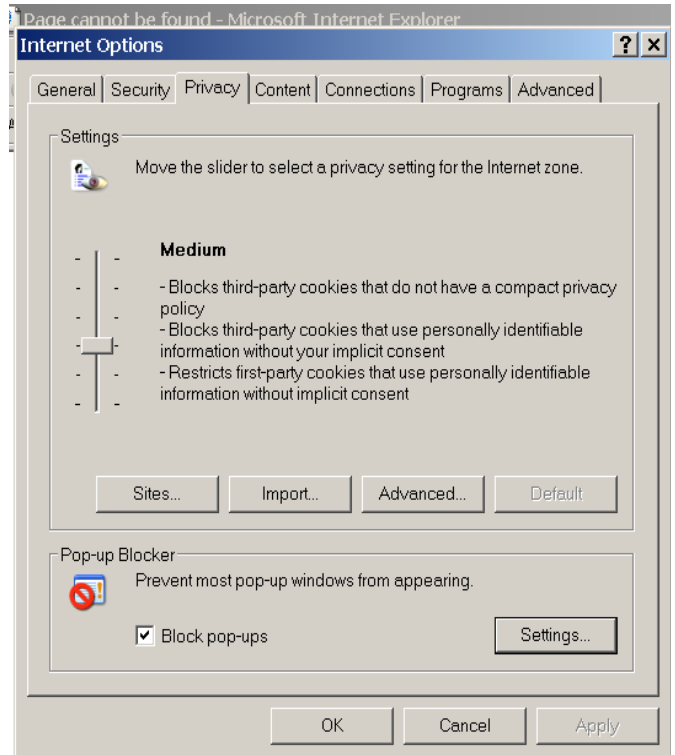
Security features help to prevent people from gaining access to information that you have not given them permission to access, such as credit card information you enter when shopping on the Internet. Security features can also protect your computer from unsafe software.

### Choose Setting

Since the availability of SP2, the latest (8-04) update to Windows XP security has been greatly enhanced. It automatically sets your privacy setting as the default setting the fourth marker labeled "medium." This is a very practical setting and should not interfere with normal usage and yet offer adequate protection. I suggest that you leave the setting as such unless you are having problems that are prompting you that access denied, etc. Keep in mind that if you are having problems that this is where you must make the changes. Also keep in mind that should you make any changes for a particular situation for which you are prompted that afterwards remember to reset the setting back to "medium."

### Pop-up Blockers

Most Internet users object to Pop-up ads that commercial web sites use to promote their products or services. You have the option of receiving these ads or not. This is where you turn on or off this option. You may want certain sites who use Pop-ups as information rather than ads to use the Pop-up system to continue. Under the settings menu you are able to allow specific sites to use the Pop-up feature. You may also turn off here the sound when Pop-ups are blocked.



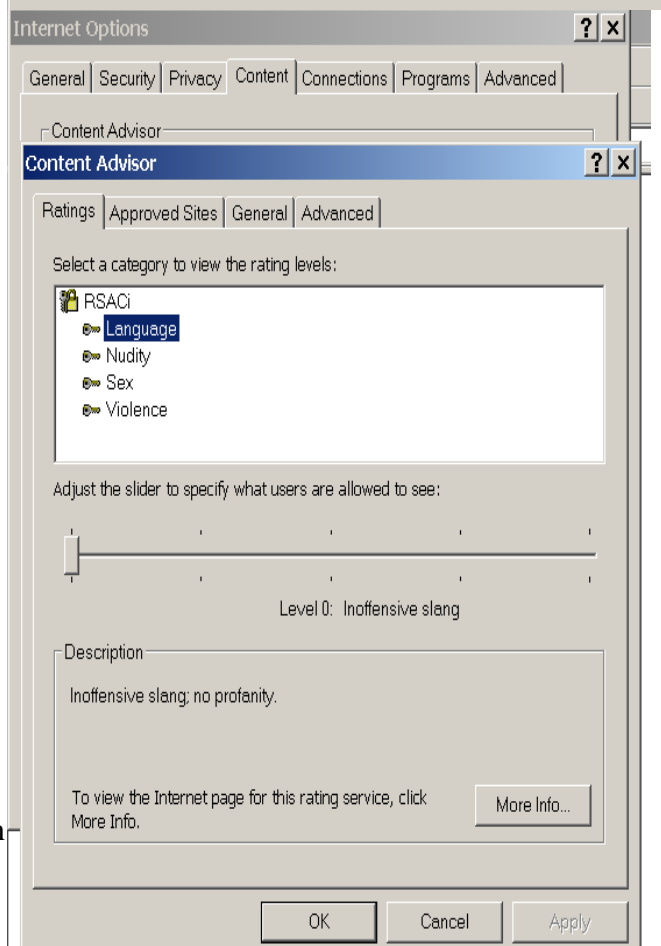
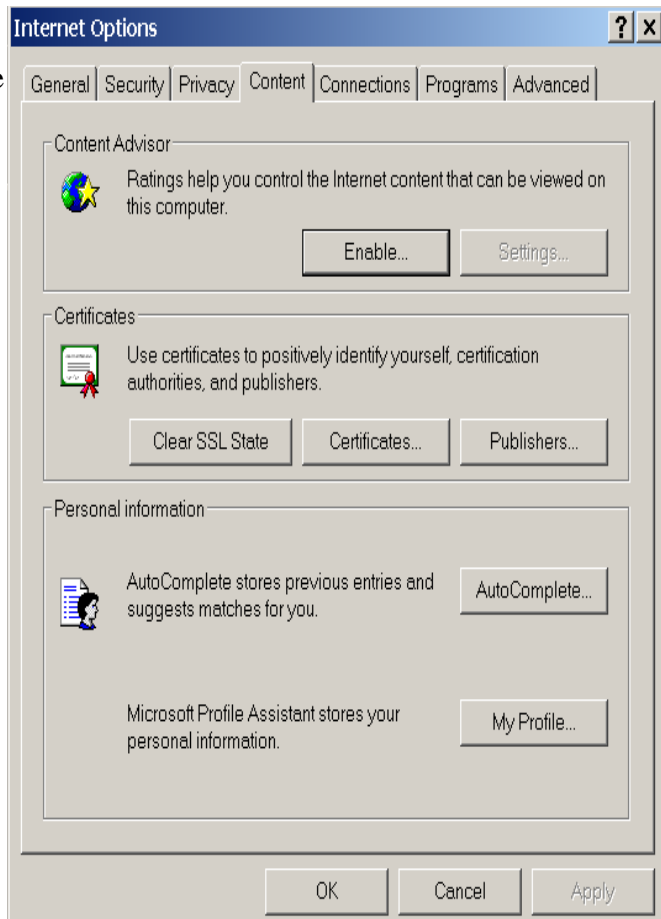
**Content Advisor** - The Internet provides unprecedented access to a wide variety of information. Some information, however, may not be suitable for every viewer. For example, you might want to prevent your children from seeing Web sites that contain violent or sexual content.

Content Advisor provides a way to help you control the types of content that your computer can gain access to on the Internet. After you turn on Content Advisor, only rated content that meets or exceeds your criteria can be viewed. You can adjust the settings.

With Content Advisor, you can:

- Control access to Content Advisor settings. You turn Content Advisor on, and view the settings, through the use of a password. You will need this password to change any Content Advisor settings, so you might want to write it down for future reference.
- View and adjust the ratings settings to reflect what you think is appropriate content in each of four areas: language, nudity, sex, and violence. (Lower Image)
- Adjust what types of content other people can view, with or without your permission. You can override content settings on a case-by-case basis.
- Set up a list of Web sites that other people can never view, regardless of how the sites' contents are rated.
- Set up a list of Web sites that other people can always view, regardless of how the sites' contents are rated.
- View and change the ratings systems and bureaus you use.

Content Advisor is set to the most conservative (least likely to offend) settings when you first turn it on. You can adjust these settings to match your own preferences. Not all Internet content is rated. If you choose to allow other people to view unrated sites on your computer, some of those sites could contain inappropriate material.



**Certificates for privacy and security** - You can use certificates to protect your personally identifiable information on the Internet and to protect your computer from unsafe software. A certificate is a statement verifying the identity of a person or the security of a Web site. Internet Explorer uses two different types of certificates:

- A **personal certificate** is a verification that you are who you say you are. This information is used when you send personal information over the Internet to a Web site that requires a certificate verifying your identity. You can control the use of your identity by having a private key on your computer. When used with e-mail programs, security certificates with private keys are also known as "digital IDs".
- A **Web site certificate** states that a specific Web site is secure and genuine. It ensures that no other Web site can assume the identity of the original secure site. When you are sending personal information over the Internet, it is a good idea to check the certificate of the Web site you are using to make sure that it will protect your personally identifiable information. When you are downloading software from a Web site, you can use certificates to verify that the software is coming from a known, reliable source.

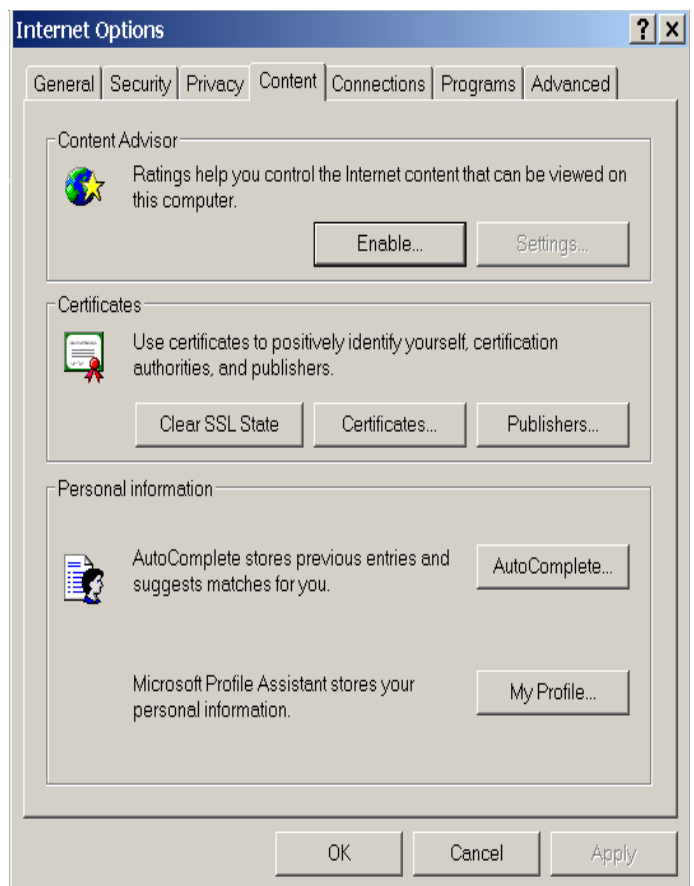
### How security certificates work?

A security certificate, whether it is a personal certificate or a Web site certificate, associates an identity with a public key. Only the owner of the certificate knows the corresponding private key. The private key allows the owner to make a digital signature or decrypt information encrypted with the corresponding public key. When you send your certificate to other people, you are actually giving them your public key, so they can send you encrypted information that only you can decrypt and read with your private key.

The digital signature component of a security certificate is your electronic identity card. The digital signature tells the recipient that the information actually came from you and has not been forged or tampered with.

Before you can start sending encrypted or digitally signed information, you must obtain a certificate and set up Internet Explorer to use it. When you visit a secure Web site (one whose address starts with https), the site automatically sends you its certificate.

Personal Information is a method of storing such information as an address book listing or within an existing listing



## The New Connection Wizard

The Connections section of the Internet options is designed to set up and maintain or control of all your Internet connections including dial-up and high-speed. Access to this section can also be accessed from the “Settings” and then the “Control Panel” from your “Start” menu which is the preferred way to initially install a connection.

If you are new to the Internet, the Internet Connection Wizard creates an Internet connection for you, and then displays a list of Internet service providers (ISPs) and information about their services. You do not have to sign up with any of these ISP’s described. Your local phone company and providers such as Net Zero and Juno offer much better pricing and service. If you already have an account with an ISP and want to create an Internet connection to your account, the Internet Connection Wizard col-

lects all the necessary information from you and then creates the connection.

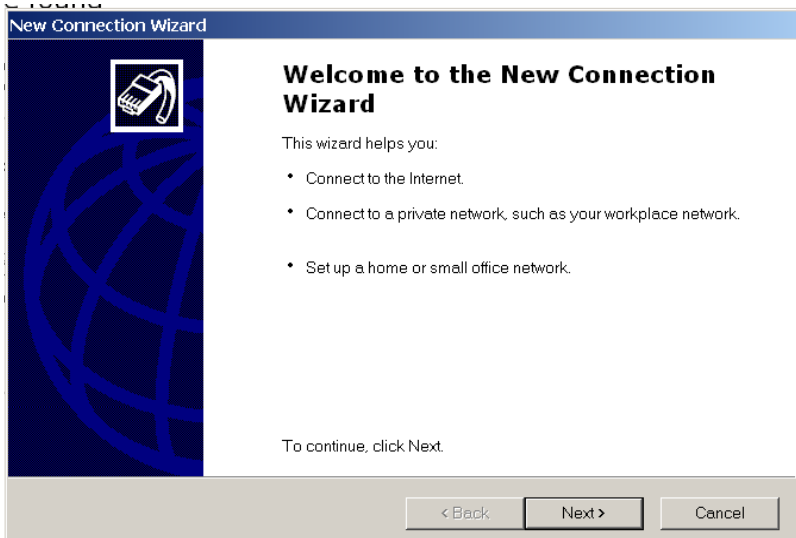
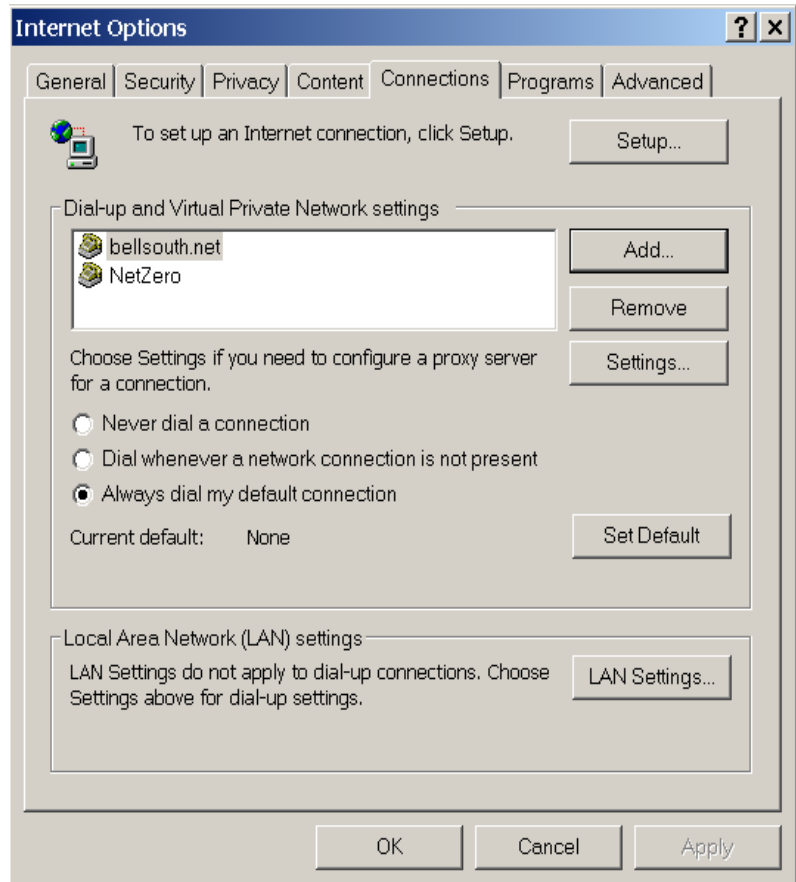
If you have not already run the wizard, you can start it as follows:

From the Internet Options or Properties window click on setup. . . or open of the Internet Options from the Control Panel.

From either source you can also add or remove existing accounts from your system. If you click on add it takes you into the Connection Wizard.” Remove deletes the account from the system. The “settings. . .” allows you to reset or add the information for the particular connection highlighted. This includes your user name, passwords, and telephone dial-up numbers.

The “Internet Connection Wizard” is the best way to set up or configure a new dial-up account. Also see Chapter 2 “Setting Up your Dial up Connection.”

Following the “Wizard” is the easiest. . . But you must remember to have all your ISP connection information first. It includes your “User Name,” “Password,” and dial-up telephone number. This information must either come from your ISP or confirmed by your ISP. All ISP records must match the information you install on your computer.



**Programs tab** gives you a list of Internet associated programs that you are using set by default when you installed your Windows operating system.

**HTML editor** is the program that you can use to edit any Internet documents. Notepad is the default but it is too limited for practical use. MS Front Page, MS Word, MS Publisher are much more or desirable. There are also many 3rd party programs available.

**Outlook Express** is also your default e-mail and newsgroups program. It is the most common used and most adequate unless you choose another program.

**NetMeeting** is a telephone chat type of program used for direct connections work simultaneously. It

is the default program installed by your Windows operating system.

Your **Windows Address Book** is your Calendar and Contact List unless you install a 3rd party program.

If you attempted to or erroneously install other programs, using the re-set button will reinstall the default programs. Otherwise using the arrow to the right will display all the programs you have installed on your computer and you can choose the one you want.

What this all means is that these programs displayed are the programs that you want to perform the functions as they are addressed. If you want to make any changes, this is the place.

The **Advanced tab** displays a long list of settings that control many functions of your browser and Internet activities. Read through them. You probably will not at this time understand what they mean from the description. If you do not know what you are doing, do nothing. Should you have made a change that you do not know what you did, then use the “**Restore Defaults**” button to put things back to normal.

